

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 12-14 have been amended for consistency and to better describe certain aspects of the invention. Claims 16-20 have been added to further describe the invention. Favorable reconsideration in light of the amendments, the new claims, and the remarks which follow is respectfully requested.

Claim Objection

Claim 14 has been objected to for a typographical error. Claim 14 has been amended to correct the typographical error with changing the scope thereof.

Indefiniteness Rejection

Claims 12 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, with regard to having multiple ranges therein. Claims 12 and 13 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to recite only one range. The amendments do not narrow the scope of these claims.

The Amendments and Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. Amended independent claim 1 contains the subject matter of original claim 1 and allowable claim 6. New independent claim 16 contains the subject matter of original claim 1 and allowable claim 5. The independent claims have been amended to disclaim the cited art. Claim 6 has been amended to contain subject matter deleted from original claim 12. New dependent claims 17-20 contain the subject matter similar to claims 12, 2, 3, and 9, respectively.

The Art Rejections

Claims 1-4, 7, and 10-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Gentry (U.S. Patent 6,261,441). Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Gentry in view of EP 0575077. The amendments incorporating allowable subject matter into the independent claims renders the rejections moot.

Petition for Extension of Time

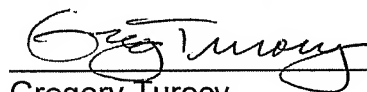
A request for a one month extension of time is hereby made. Payment is being made through the EFS electronic filing system.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event any fees are due in connection with the filing of this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully submitted,

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